

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 011035Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4315

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSULATE HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSULATE DOUALA VIA POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, CH, CM

SUBJECT: NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT
AHIDJO

REF: YAOUNDE 1667

1. CHINA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON WEI PAO-CHAN (7614/1405/0810) RECENTLY ARRIVED YAOUNDE REPLACING CHAO HSING CHIH WHO DEPARTED MAY (SEE REFTTEL) AND ON SEPTEMBER 28 WEI PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO AHIDJO IN WARM AND WELL-PUBLICIZED CEREMONY AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. OBSERVERS HEARD TO COMMENT ON UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER CHINESE EMBASSY STAFF ALSO ATTENDING, SET AT 8 BY LOCAL PRESS. WEI'S REMARKS AS BRIEFLY REPORTED WERE UNREMARKABLE THOUGH ARTICULATE IN PUTTING ACCENT ON COMMON DESTINY CHINA AND CAMEROON AS WELL AS WHOLE NON-ALIGNED, AFRO-ASIAN COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY PARTNERS AGAINST THE "GREAT POWERS".

2. AHIDJO'S FORMAL DISCOURSE NOTABLE FOR HIGH PRAISE OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MOTIVES HERE SINCE RELATIONS
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ESTABLISHED EARLY 1971. EVEN MORE STRIKING, PERHAPS, WAS

PRESIDENT'S UNEQUIVOCAL ENDORSEMENT CHINESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT HOME AND WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS PEKING'S "PROMOTION OF WORLD PEACE, JUSTICE, AND COOPERATION" AND SUPPORT FOR "JUST STRUGGLES WAGED BY OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF ASIA, MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, AND IMPERIALISM".

3. CONCERNING CHINESE AID TO CAMEROON, AHIDJO OFFERED THIS GLOWING APPRECIATION: "CAMEROON VALUES THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AT ITS TRUE WORTH, ON ACCOUNT, NATURALLY, OF ITS SCALE AND EFFECTIVENESS AND OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT IS GIVEN,

BUT ALSO AND ABOVE ALL BECAUSE, COMING FROM A PEOPLE WHICH IS ITSELF ENGAGED IN A GIGANTIC DRIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT, THIS ASSISTANCE REPRESENTS A SACRIFICE AND SETS THE EXAMPLE FOR A NEW TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONS". PRESIDENT DID NOT NEGLECT RECALLING HIS "RECENT" CHINA VISIT (OF MARCH-APRIL 1973) AT WHICH TIME HE WAS ABLE "MEASURE PRC DEVOTION TO DEVELOPMENT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIMENT UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY OF MANKIND". CAMEROON'S ADMIRATION FOR "ENLIGHTENED GUIDANCE OF ILLUSTRIOUS LEADER MAO TSE TUNG" ALSO NOTED.

4. COMMENT: WITHOUT WISHING EXAGGERATE PRACTICAL PORTENT OF SUCH HYPERBOLE AT OCCASION THIS SORT, AHIDJO WOULD HARDLY HAVE WELCOMED NEW CHINESE ENVOY IN SUCH RESOUNDING TERMS WITHOUT CLOSELY WEIGHING IMPACT ON ALL CONCERNED. SEEN THUS, BELIEVE CAN BE FAIRLY STATED CHINESE STATUS ON LOCAL SCENE NOW AT VERY HIGH POINT THAT OFFERS AMBASSADOR WEI PROMISE SMOOTH SAILING WITH CAMEROONIANS FOR SOME TIME TO COME BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT HERE OR ELSEWHERE TO CHANGE ATMOSPHERICS. WITH CHINESE AID PROGRAM STILL ONLY VAGUELY AND INCOMPLETELY DISCLOSED TO CAMEROONIAN PEOPLE TO DATE, AMBASSADOR OUGHT TO HAVE PLENTY OF RABBITS TO PULL FROM HAT AS MEANS PROLONG HIS "HONEYMOON". ON AHIDJO'S SIDE, PROGRESSIVE UNVEILING DETAILS CHINESE ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE NICELY MANIPULABLE TO MAKE GROWING GURC INTIMACY WITH PEKING APPEAR TO HIS CONSTITUENCY NOT AS THREAT BUT AS MAJOR PLUS DURING CRUCIAL MONTHS PRECEDING UNC PARTY CONGRESS NOW SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1975.
MOORE

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